

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A children's playset comprising a multi-level structure comprising a frame defined by permanent upright members; at least one removable upright member disposed inside the frame and removable from the playset without disassembling the frame; and

a plurality of steps configured to allow a child to climb from a first level of the structure to a second level of the structure, the second level comprising a deck and each step comprising a platform sized to accommodate the entire body of the child;

the steps being mounted within the multi-level structure so that ~~they~~ the steps are removable without damaging the structure.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Currently Amended) The playset of claim 1 wherein further comprising ~~removable upright members to which~~ the steps are attached to the at least one removable upright member, and the playset comprises a plurality of removable upright members.

4. (Original) The playset of claim 3 wherein the steps are removably attached to the removable upright members.

5. (Original) The playset of claim 3 further comprising a horizontally mounted member configured to removably receive an upper portion of the removable upright members.

6. (Original) The playset of claim 5 wherein said upper portion of the removable upright members is notched, and the horizontally mounted member is configured to be received in the notched portions of the removable upright members.

7. (Original) The playset of claim 1 wherein each step has four corners, and the playset includes an upright member positioned adjacent to each of the four corners of each step.

8. (Original) The playset of claim 7 wherein a plurality of climbing rungs extend substantially horizontally between at least one pair of adjacent upright members.

9. (Original) The playset of claim 8 wherein the climbing rungs extend between two adjacent pairs of upright members, defining a pair of ladders at an outer corner of the playset.

10. (Original) The playset of claim 1 wherein the first level is at ground level.

11. (Original) The playset of claim 1 wherein the playset is configured so that removal of the steps leaves an open play area within the first level.

12. (Original) The playset of claim 1 wherein the steps are mounted so as to be removable from the playset at any time during the life of the playset.

13. (Currently Amended) A method of using a playset comprising the steps of
(a) providing a multi-level structure comprising a frame defined by permanent upright members; and

(b) removably installing within the structure at least one removable upright member in a manner so that the removable upright member is removable from the playset without disassembling the frame; and

(c) removably installing within the structure a plurality of steps configured to allow a child to climb from a first level of the structure to a second level of the structure and to be

removable from the structure without damage to the structure, the second level comprising a deck and each step comprising a platform sized to accommodate the entire body of the child.

14. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 13 further comprising ~~(e)~~ (d) subsequently removing the steps from the structure when they are no longer needed.

15. (Original) The method of claim 13 wherein the structure comprises a plurality of climbing rungs configured to allow the child to climb from the first level to the second level, and the steps are removed when the child has developed sufficiently to use the climbing rungs.

16. (New) The method of claim 13 further comprising (d) subsequently removing the removable upright member from the structure.

17. (New) The method of claim 13 wherein removably installing the removable upright member comprises engaging a groove in the top of the upright member with an elongated member having a first end and a second end, the first and second ends of the elongated member being fixedly mounted to first and second permanent upright members.